

**MINUTES OF THE ILLINOIS WORKERS' COMPENSATION COMMISSION
MEDICAL FEE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
JAMES R. THOMPSON CENTER, 100 WEST RANDOLPH STREET – ORAL ARGUMENT ROOM
HELD ON DECEMBER 7, 2011 at 2:00 PM**

Present at the meeting were:

Chairman Mitch Weisz
Mr. John Smolk, United Airlines
Mr. Bill McAndrew, Illinois Hospital Association
Ms. Barb Molloy, Molloy Consulting
Dr. Michael Vender, Hand Surgery Associates
Mr. Jason Keller, Illinois AFL-CIO
Ms. Dianne McGuire, College of DuPage Board of Trustees
Ms. Kimberly Moreland, Rising Medical Solutions

Participating via telephone were:

Mr. Glen Boyle, Project Manager
Dr. Avi Bernstein, The Spine Center

IWCC staff present at the meeting were:

Ms. Susan Piha, Manager of Research and Education
Ms. Kim Janas, Secretary of the Commission
Mr. Darrell Widen, Assistant General Counsel

Also present at the meeting were:

Mr. Fred Gjondla, Hemii
Mr. Mary Gjondla, Hemii
Mr. Jay Shattuck, Illinois Chamber
Ms. Valeri McGregor, Stratacare, LLC
Ms. Terri Robinson, NCCI
Mr. David Dring, Medtronics
Mr. Tim O'Connell, Automated Healthcare Solutions
Mr. David B. Menchetti
Mr. Robert Evans, Rising Medical
Dr. Andrew J. Engel, MPSS
Ms. Sue Arico, Marque Medicos
Ms. Megan Karlic, Concentra Medical Center
Mr. Matt Hillison, Concentra
Mr. Michael Blixen, HFN, Inc.
Ms. Liz Kerr, HFN, Inc.
Mr. Jeff Rogers, ATI

Chairman Mitch Weisz called the meeting order to at 2:05 pm and noted that a quorum was present. Upon motion by Ms. McGuire, seconded by Mr. Smolk, and unanimously carried, the minutes of the Medical Fee Advisory Board meeting held on October 18, 2011 were approved.

The meeting began with a presentation by Glen Boyle regarding the status of the changes to the Medical Fee Schedule required by HB 1698. In his status report, Mr. Boyle discussed the progress of the reorganization of the Medical Fee Schedule into the new hospital and professional categories. Mr. Boyle reported that he had a meeting with the Illinois Hospital Association regarding the possible development of an emergency room fee schedule. The dental fee schedule has still not been created because there is no charge data available. Finally, Mr. Boyle shared that Ingenix had developed a website prototype for the new fee schedule and recommended that it be approved to go live.

Mr. Boyle also shared some of the frequently asked questions that he has been receiving in regards to the Fee Schedule, such as the billing amount for out-of-state providers when the claimant does not reside in Illinois, the use of CMS coding rules in the workers' compensation system, and how to determine the region associated with the bill without having a region tied specifically to ZIP codes.

The members of the Board asked some follow-up questions after Mr. Boyle's presentation, specifically focusing on rehabilitation hospitals and the impact of the new regions on their reimbursement rates.

Kim Janas then provided a brief presentation regarding the draft revisions for Section 7110.90 of the Commission's Administrative Rules, which sets forth the guidelines for the Medical Fee Schedule. Ms. Janas noted that she had started to distribute copies of the draft revisions and asked for comments via email by December 21, 2011.

Chairman Weisz then opened the meeting for any other matters to be discussed by the Board. Mr. McAndrew raised two issues, one regarding balance billing and the provisions of the new Section of the Workers' Compensation Act regarding the Preferred Provider Program and the other regarding the possibility of creating a dispute resolution process for providers that would be conducted by the Commission.

Finally, Mr. Keller registered a formal complaint for the record that the final representative of labor has still not been appointed to the Medical Fee Advisory Board.

With a motion to adjourn made by Mr. Smolk, seconded by Mr. Keller, and unanimously carried, the Medical Fee Advisory Board adjourned at 3:24 pm.